## THE GREAT CHINESE INVASION

A Startling Story of Events That May Possibly Occur in the Year 1910.

BY FRANK M. EASTMAN.

CHAPTER VIII. THE BAT LE OF UBET.

Lieutenant Fuller had remained at the head of the flume after his friend's departure, watching his swift decent of the mountain as he shot from point to point, now disappearing in cavernous gorges, now reappearing further down in the glare of the lightning, shooting along the breast of some precipice and again disappearing. until no further glimpse of him could be obtained, and then sadly returned to his command. For a moment he watched the approach of the dense masses below him. On they came, swiftly and steadily, presenting a sternly impressive appearance, like the resistless sweep of some huge tidalwave. Their speed was considerably faster than the ordinary march of troops, and they had approached appreciably nearer in the short time which had been occupied in the departure of Haines. As Fuller turned to write a dispatch to be sent to camp his attention was attracted to a light upon the summit of a peak distant some miles or more upon his right. Turning his nightglasses upon the object he saw to his surprise that the peak was swarming with the

troops of the enemy.
"Humph!" he exclaimed, turning to the second heutenant of the company. "They've stolen a march on us. Their advance guard has taken that peak. This is no place for us. They will have us surrounded in a few minutes." And giving the necessary orders he at once put the company upon its down-ward march. The camp was reached in three hours. Arriving there Fuller found that he brought the first news of the Chinese advance and that Haines had not yet come in. He at once concluded that he must have been hurled through some break in the ruinous flume, and that his death was therefore certain. Accordingly no search parties were sent out after the missing officer.

The news brought by Fuller created the greatest excitement in the American army. The Chinese had been supposed to be at least seventy-five miles distant, and their sudden appearance at this juncture was highly disconcerting. Orders were at once given to occupy the foot-hills above the camp in force, intrenchments were thrown up upon their crests and artillery to arm them was drawn up. On either hand, at a distance of perhaps a mile, the mountain range rose abruptly in precipitous peaks to an elevation of at least 3,000 feet above the altitude of the range opposite the camp, and continued at that height for many miles. The mountains could, therefore, only be crossed at a point just abreast of the camp, and by fortifying the foot-hills at this point the American commander sought to confine the scene of the approaching conflict to the broken and sioping ground between the range and the foot-hills, where the great humbers of the Chinese could not be used to such disadvantage to the United States forces as upon an open plain. The plan of the commander was judicious, and was ably carried out. Before the sun arose on the morrow this disposition of the army had

been carried out. With the return of light, however, the American general saw to his dismay the long line of the Chinese army drawn up in battle array upon the plain, distant some two miles from his left flank. So unexpected was its appearance in this position that it was at first supposed to be a new force, but the tell-tale balloons floating in its rear indicated how the range had been crossed beyond the line of the American pickets. Hasty orders were at once issued and fairly executed, and in a short time the army was drawn up in a position at a right angle to that it had occupied during the night. The neglect of the Chinese general to attack while his opponents were shifting their position excited some surprise, and was taken as an indication of lack of ability on his part. At this juncture the arrival of a flag of truce created some excitement, but its mission was nothing more than an offer to exchange Captain Haines for the Chinese commander's aid, of which the reader has already been informed. Haines was a favorite with the American general, or such a request would have received slight attention at this important moment. The proposition was at once forwarded to the War Department at Washington by military telephone, wit a favorable recommendation. The flag withdrew and the movements of the conflicting armies indicated that the battle was about to begin.

And where was Haines at this eventful moment? He was leaning over the rail of a balloon which floated motionless above the mountains opposite the left wing of the Chinese army, and by his side a spectator almost as interested as himself stood the of him, and apparently at the backs | been much abroad, and had represented his | present. Encore un peu de jours et le geenlithe figure of Mauna Qua. In what might | of stood the Chinese commandsurrounded by his immediate staff. His forces, as well as those of the enemy, lay clearly outlined beneath him, as though drawn upon a map. The telephone in his hand communicated by a dozen different wires with his several corps commanders, whom he thus handled as a chess-player his men. Haines and Mauna stood some distance apart from this group, but Yih-Hun occasionally paused in the midst of his duties to say a pleasant word to them or to answer some question of

The construction of the machine which he now occupied, similar to those which he had seen on the debarkation of the hostile army, had at first attracted Haines's attention. These air-ships were constructed, as Haines had conjectured, of extremely thin plates of aluminium; but, thin as they were, he soon found, by a rapid calculation, that a bailoon made of them was too heavy to be lifted by hydrogen gas. He mentioned this to Yih-Hun. "You are right," said the latter. "Hydro-

gen gas would not do."
"What do you use, then?"

"Vachygen." "What's that?" "One of the elements of oxygen. Our chemists discovered some three years ago that oxygen was composed of two elements, vachygen and veauygen, the first of which is one-fourth lighter than hydrogen. It is this which not only enables us to use aluminium, but also to carry a regiment of men at a time."

"I see," said Haines. "How do they separate the elements?" "Ah, that would be giving aid and comfort to the enemy if I were to tell you that," was the smiling reply. "That is a military secret. It is a very intricate process, done under enormous pressure, which can only be obtained by means of the Ke-li motor."

"The what?" "The Ke-li motor. Did you never hear of it? Why, Ke-li was an American." "Oh!" exclaimed Haines. "The Keely motor. Is there such a thing?" "Yes. Here is one which we use to prope this balloon. You see we take up our cable. run it around this big wheel or drum, and then wind ourselves along the cable by means of the motor. Ke-li came to China

some fifteen years ago. The Emperor took him under his protection, and he died recently a mandarin of four tails and a commander in the order of the Seventeen Imperial Umbrellas,"

"Do you understand the principle upon which the motor works?" "Oh, yes. This chamber is the reverberator, which triturates the molecular forces disseminated by one minum of HO2. These pass to this eylinder, which is the aquiferator. When aquiferated they are no longer congeminated, but concoagulated, and thus readily combine in this tank, where, under pressure, they become conglutinated. Emerg-

ing thence, they pass into this reservoir."
"Oh, yes; I think I understand," said Haines, whose scientific knowledge was considerable. "I think I see the principle on which it works. I mean to try to make such a motor when I am exchanged, for it must be of the greatest possible use to you." "It is of vital importance to us, Haines, and you must not think that I would have told you so much of its workings were there not another, and the most difficult process of all, which I have not explained."

"What is that process?"
"Oh, we phenetize the resultants after leaving the conglutinator." "Ah, how do you do that?"

"That, my dear fellow, must remain a secret. It would be worth the heads of a whole army to lisp it." This conversation relative to the au-ship

and its motor was interrupted by the be-The initial movement was made by the American army, which moved forward in line of battle, in order to take possession of a slight rise of ground which rose from the plain about half a mile in front of its left wing. This elevation was occupied and several batteries were stationed upon it, which at once opened upon the Chinese forces, distant some twenty-five hundred yards. A general advance was then made along the line in the "clouds of skirmishers" prescribed by tactics, and firing became general on the part of the army of the United States as soon as they had approached within eighteen hundred yards of the enemy. In the meantime a strong force, consisting of the entire Third Corps, had been stationed between the range and the foot-hills, with orders to march along the valley between them until opposite

the valley between them until opposite the Chinese left, when they were to emerge from the valley to the plain and attack the enemy's left wing. The Chinese meanafter the American advance began, although suffering considerably from their opponents' volleys. Their forces were drawn up in long, thin successive lines of battle, while heavy masses of reserves could be seen in their rear. The scene from the car occupied by

Haines was now grand in the extreme. The whole battle lay beneath him, like a picture. The minutest details were visible, and Haines even imagined that he could detect his own regiment by the gallant manner in which it dashed forward. The thunder of the artillery, the rattle of small arms, and even the shrill cries of the wounded, ascended to his ears in an incessant, monotonous murmur. Suddenly the Chinese commander placed the transmitter of his telephone to his lips and uttered some words through it. In an instant along the lines of his forces arose light and incessant puffs of transparent vapor as they opened fire. The noise of the battle did not, however, seem to become

louder. "The fire of your troops does not seem to increase the din of battle, Mlle. Mauna, said Haines in French, the only language known to both, to the fair girl by his side. "No," was the reply. "Our guns are prac-tically noiseless. They make a slight hissing sound and that is all."

"Then you do not use gun-powder."
"Oh, no; only the Ke-li motor." Haines asked no further questions, but mentally wondered at the immense capabilities of that mysterious force. Just then, while his eye happened to be fixed upon a twelve-gun battery below him, he saw the three guns on the left of the battery simultaneously dismounted by a shot from the Chinese artillery. The dismounting of field-pieces in battle is no unusual thing, but Haines was much surprised at what he beheld. These guns had not only been dismounted, but they had been hurled from their carriages in a direction at a right angle to that in which they had been pointing. Haines looked beyond them for some flanking battery, but there was nothing to their left but the level plain, stretch-

ing to the horizon. "How that could be done by a shot from their front I'll be hanged if I see," he muttered to himself.

Turning his gaze further to the front he saw that the heavy lines of the American skirmishers were now retiring in some disorder, and that the Chinese lines were beginning to advance slowly. The American force which had been sent along the base of the mountains to attack the Chinese left wing had been confronted by a superior force, and after a sharp conflict had been obliged to seek to rejoin the main army by marching by the left flank across the foot-hills, losing heavily as they did so. Extensive preparations were now seen being made along the United States lines for a decisive movement. Battery after battery was hurried to the extreme front, and a destructive fire was opened from several hundred field pieces. Meanwhile an assaulting party of two entire corps was massed upon the right wing. The whole army then advanced slowly, with its left wing refused, while the assaulting column dashed forward with loud cheers.

The wily Chinese general, to whom in his airy station these preparations had been clearly apparent, had prepared for this as-sault by strengthening his left wing, while he had at the same time ordered up many reserves to his right wing, which he had slightly advanced. The assaulting column dashed forward in fine order, though losing beavily, but when it had attained a distance of some eight hundred yards from the enemy its advance began to slacken. Haines then saw what were to him two wholly inexplicable movements. He noticed, first, that not only the front ranks of the Chinese army were firing, but that every man in their successive lines of battle was firing straight in front his comrades before him. The evation at which the pieces were held showed that they could not be firing over their comrades' heads. While wondering at this, Haines noticed through his fieldglass that the men in the outer files of the charging party, on both sides of the column, were in a state of confusion and panic, and were gazing with consternation to their right and left, and gesticulating in those directions as though they were being attacked from those quarters. Haines glanced to right and left, but could see nothing from which a flanking fire could have been delivered, nor anything what-ever to account for the panic which he witnessed. While he noted all this with surprise and wonder, the column, which had now ceased to advance, began to waver and in a moment, despite the efforts of its officers, broke, turned and fled. At the instant the calm voice of the Chinese commander was heard at the telephone and in a second the whole Chinese army began moving slowly forward, its advanced wing overlapping and partially flanking the fleeing masses of the broken column, upon which they poured a destructive cross-fire. At the same moment the detachment which had repulsed the flanking force of the Americans, and had followed it over the foothills, opened fire upon the right flank of their army. Just

at this critical period Haines saw the ranks of the Chinese army opposite the American front open to right and left to give passage to a score or more of huge, car-like objects, which dashed forward with an almost incredible speed, emitting at the same time a continuous and rapid fire from the guns mounted upon them, as was evidenced from the jets of vapor which incessantly shot from their sides. They appeared like miniature forts, propelled by some internal motor, capable of containing some two hundred men, and apparently armored sufficiently to resist musketry. Their wheels were protected by their armored sides. These machines dashed over the somewhat uneven plain as easily as a battery of field pieces would have galloped over the same. The guns mounted upon their sides, were apparently somewhat similar to the machine guns of the United States forces, capable of discharging an enormous number of of shots per minute, and were mounted so as to permit of their being fired from the shoulder, like the rail gun used upon men-of-war. These novel engines of warfare were, in short, the war chariots of history improved by modern science into machines infinitely more formidable than their prototypes. Before Haines could examine them more closely they had plunged amid the aiready disorganized ranks of the American army. Such a shock no enemy could resist, and after a short but ineffectual struggle the army gave way and began to retreat, which was

Chinese and the swift assaults of the chariota into a complete rout. Haines stood gazing upon the rout of his countrymen with a dull feeling of torpid amazement. He felt none of the anguish which he should have experienced. A sensation of stupid bewilderment possessed his mind. A feeling of weakness and fatigue came over him, and he threw himself into a deck chair near at hand and stared at the bottom of the car for a long time. He was not thinking. His mind seemed incapable of thought. He could only mentally repeat over and over uncon-nected and senseless words and phrases. He was vaguely conscious through it all that the Tartar General was standing not far from him and looking with malignant delight upon his distress. At length he roused himself and looked about him. Wo-

soon converted by the rapid pursuit of the

no part of Haines's nature to betray weakness in the presence of others, nor especially in that of a woman. He rose with an air of assumed calmness and approached the Chinese girl.
"Well, fortune has smiled upon your banners to-day, Mlle. Mauna," he said. "I

would I could congratulate you." "Oh, do not speak of congratulations, Captain Haines. What subject of congrat-ulation can one find in that dreadful scene? This is the first battle I ever saw. It shall be the last. If it is so dreadful at this distance what must it be below there among

the dead and dying?"
"Was it Napolean who said it is well that war is so dreadful or we should become too fond of it?"

"It is, indeed, terrible," she said, simply. "Let us leave this place as soon as possible. I will call Yih and ask him to take us back to camp." As she spoke her brother ap-"You do not take part in the pursuit, Yih?" inquired Haines.

"No; the line of pursuit had been settled beforehand, and will be carried out by the different corps commanders. Father has just given orders for the balleon to return to camp." As he spoke the huge cylinder amidships began to revolve rapidly, and the air-ship started swiftly toward the

"This is rather an easy way of fighting a battle, Yih," remarked Haines, with affected coolness. "You cannot get your blood much heated by the conflict fighting from this distance. "No," replied Yih-Hun. "There is not

much of the stern joy that warriors feel in directing a battle that is going on two miles or more away from you. But it is a very effective way of fighting." "There are several things you must ex-plain to me," said Haines, and he described the accident to the battery, the panie of the assaulting column and the fire delivered by the rear ranks of the Chinese army. "Do

you know how all these things happened?" he inquired. "Oh, yes. Our guns do not shoot in a straight line unless we want them to." "Do you mean to say that they will shoot around a corner, and that you can flank an enemy directly in front of you?" "Yes, we can fire around a corner, if the

angle is not too acute, and we can flank an enemy directly in front of us. 'This,' as Hamlet says, 'was hitherto a paradox.'"
"How can that be possible?"
"Easily enough. You used to pitch in our class base-ball nine at the Point, did you not? Yes. Well, you used to make your balls curve from a straight line, did you

"Well, our guns shoot somewhat on the same principle. They won't shoot at a right angle to the gun, but they curve their balls sufficiently to deliver a very effective flanking fire. With the up-curve the whole army can fire at once, the rear men firing over the front ranks, as you saw to-day, though it looks as if they were shooting at their comrades' backs."

"But you cannot use conical balls." "No, we use round bullets, but the Ke-li motor gives usan initial velocity of 4,000 feet a second, and that gives us as flat a trajectory as you obtain with conical balls and rifled guns." "And the chariots, or whatever you call

them, that I saw to-day, are propelled by the same Ke-li motor, I suppose?" "Yes. We use it for almost everything." "Well, it is strange," sighed Haines, "that your people, who are supposed to be so conservative and non-inventive, should have so many nevel implements of warfare, while we, who are called the most inventive people on earth, are so far lahind

"But these are not our inventions," was the reply. "They are mostly the inventions of Americans, but we have seen the value of them and encouraged the inventors, while your people would have let them starve. Our merit consists only in knowing a good thing when we see it. You had Ke-li with you for many years. Why did you not encourage his labors?"

Haines did not know, and so made no reply. "Well," he said at last, "I have one consolation at our defeat, that is that our army was not beaten by the enemy but by Ke-li motors, guns that will shoot in a circle, chariots as big as a township, and such infernal contrivances." Yih-Hun and Mauna smiled at this ungracious sally, and at that moment the bailoon descended in the Chinese camp.

> CHAPTER IX. A PRISONER OF WAR.

An exchanged prisoner of war, after the battle of Ubet, Haines fell into a mood of listless despair of the fortunes of his country which lasted for a week or more of his captivity, if it could be called captivity to be entertained as one of the family of the Chinese commander. At last the brotherly attentions of Yih-Hun, the pleasant companionship of Mauna Qua and the dignified hospitality of Ki-Tsin drew him from this unhealthy mental condition, and he once more looked foward with some confidence to the future. With the old Generalissimo he had become quite a favorite. This person was a man of marked abilities, a shrewd observer, a keen student and entirely without those prejudices so natural to a nation as conservative as the Chinese. He had sovereign at the courts of several of the | eral secai." principal nations of Europe, and had thus been thrown in contact with many of the brightest minds of his time. His son's acquaintanceship and former friendship for Haines. had prepossessed him in that young man's favor, and upon knowing him personally he soon recognized him as an esprit fort and one well informed upon all military and potitical subjects. He grew fond of his company and Haines, on his part, became equally fond of the dignified old nobleman, often dining alone with him, discussing subjects of mutual interest. In person Ki-Tsin was stout almost to obeseness, with a benevo-lent face, a finely formed and massive head and an expression of keenness and intel-

Like most of the older officers of the higher ranks Ki-Tsin wore, instead of the modern uniform of the army, the old-fash-ioned robes of a nobleman. A long, loose robe of blue silk, richly embroidered with threads of gold, hung to his ankles, bound at the waist by a jeweled belt. Over this was worn a tunic of violet silk, the long sleeves of which covered the hands. heavy chain of 108 golden balls, called the chu-chu, hung about his neck. This badge of authority was originally intended to remind the wearer of his native land, seventytwo of the balls representing the different minerals produced in China and the remaining thirty-six typifying the constellations which shed their rays on that coun-

The army advanced slowly, sometimes remaining in camp for two or three days to allow of expeditions being sent out upon its flanks. In its advances Haines either traveled in the balloon reserved for the household and staft of the Generalissimo or rode with Yih-Hun in the advance guard, but, though he was an accomplished equestrian and foud of riding, it must be admitted that it was oftener that he appeared by the side of Manau Qua in the advances than by that of her brother. He had become very fond of the beautiful Chinese girl-nay! he was on the point of admitting to himself his love for her. She was so different from any woman he had ever known. Raised from a child as an associate of her father and brother, and apart from persons of her own sex, her manner had that frankness which is said to be the chief charm of American girls. Her education had been superior to that of the majority of her sisters of the United States. It is a popular error that female education is entirely neglected among the Chinese. The fact is that from the time of Pan Hwni-pan, also known as Pan Chao, who succeeded her brother as historiographer of the Han Dynasty, about A. D. 1880, there have been many educated women in China, and Mauna was not the least cultured of these. Whatever she did, whether gazing upon the dead and dying at the battle of Ubet, dashing over the plains on her spirited palfry, accompanying her rich contralto upon the Chinese harp or engaged in familiar conversation, she was alike charming, orig-

mal and womanly. Mauna's acuteness was unaware of the sen- | from the flume!" timent which Haines now cherished for her, but, whatever her own feelings may have been, she gave no indications of a knowledge of his thoughts. Their intercourse was as frank and unreserved as be-fore. Haines was in doubt as to what his duties were in the premises. Ought he, as a gentleman, to take advantage of the fa-miliar terms upon which he had been admitted to the family of Ki-Tsin to make love to his daughter? He had never au-mired the character of Othello, and did not roused himself and looked about him. WoLee had disappeared, but Mauna-Qua was
sitting near by and looking at him with a sad and sympathetic expression. It was in breadth of mind, his freedom from preju
line to imitate it in this particular. You will see the necessity of this."

You will see the necessity of this."

"Yes," said Haines, with a groan. "Yes, said Haines, with a groan. "Yes, said Haines, with a groan. "Yes, said Haines, with a groan."

dice; but in matters of blood and family alliances men of the most liberal mind often display a most inconsistent conservatism.

Aside from being a foreigner, who was he to aspire to the hand of the daughter of one of the greatest nobles of the Chinese empire? He had only his honest name, his sword and the few thousand dollars left him by his mother. Decidedly, he was not

a brilliant match.

From all these doubts and conjectures, pro and con, he at last delivered himself by making a confident of Yih-Hun. "Go ahead, old man," was his advice. "If Mauna loves you she will marry you. The old gentleman may object, but she can do what she likes with either of us."

"But is it proper for me to speak to her without asking your father's permission?" "Why, I do not know whether it is just proper or not, but I know it would be confounded poor policy not to do so."
"But I thought you Chinese obeyed your parents in everything while they lived, and

worshiped them when they were dead."

"We do—theoretically; the same as you Americans keep the Ten Commandments and love your neighbors as yourselves."

Haines needed no second hint, and that evening, as the great balloon slowly surged its way eastward against a light breeze, which came laden with the awest breath of which came laden with the sweet breath of the prairies, beneath a cloudless sky, in which the full moon floated with a goodnatured expression, he told his love to Mauna as they sat together near the stern. It matters not the words he used. They were the fitting expression of the love of a strong and honest man. The fair girl looked long and earnestly into the anxious face of the man before her, and then, with a little smile, placed her hand for answer in his. Her love had dated from the first moment when she saw him lying pale and

insensible in her brother's tent. Long and earnestly did they discuss their future, but it was Mauna who, with sage generalship, decided upon their line of conduct. They were to remain betrothed until the end of the war, whenever that might be, and, in the meantime, Ki-Tsin was not to know of their engagement. After the declaration of peace Mauna was to announce it to her father, after which matters were to take such a shape as should be then decided on. Haines took a ring from his hand and placed it upon her engagement finger.

"My mother's ring," he said.

She pressed it to her lips, then took from her neck a fine necklace bearing an amulet engraved in Chinese characters with the inscription: "May you get the three manys intended to express no surprise.
and the nine likes." "I have worn it since "You might say so." was the a baby," she said. "The motto is said. among our people, to bring luck." Rapidly flew the moments as they sat there, while the balloon ploughed its way through the silent night, and many were the plans which they discussed for their future. At last they rose reluctantly. As they did so Haines saw the gaunt figure of the Tartar general standing in the shadow of an awning at no great distance from them. He called Manna's attention to him

by a pressure of the hand. "Does that man understand French?" he inquired, after they had walked forward to the waist of the air-ship. "No; I think not."
"What could be have been doing there?"

"Watching us. In China every official is subjected to a perfect system of espionage.
We are all watched here. The Tartar general is really an exalted spy on my father."
"The scoundrel looks like a spy. He does not like me, and I have a perfect aversion for him. He looks like a pig-tailed Mephistopheles." Mauna smiled reproachfully.

"It is one of the necessary features of a despotic government, this constant espionage," she said. "Wo-Lee is next in rank to my father. If father were to die or be de-posed he would succeed him in command. It is thus to his interest to watch his superior closely."

"But is there not a strong temptation for a man in his position to make misrepresentations in order to secure the disgrace of his chief and his own advancement? "Perhaps so, but a man of father's standing could not be deposed on the mere allegation of Wo-Lee. His reports might lead to

an investigation, but would hardly be acted upon without confirmation." "It may be so," replied Haines, "but I should feel as though the sword of Damo-cles was suspended over me if I knew that old villain had the ear of my superiors and would profit by my downfall." "It is all in custom and education," said Manna, philosophically. "We are raised from childhood under a system of espion-

age, and are accustomed to it. Do you have nothing of the kind here?" "Yes, we have the newspapers and the mercantile agencies, and they are bad enough," said Haines. "But I am very glad the old man does not understand French, as he could easily have overheard our conversation, and our engagement

might shortly have been announced in Pekin." "Yes, it is fortunate," replied Manna. 'And now I must say good night," and with an eloquent pressure of her suitor's hand she turned and entered the cabin reserved for herself and maids. Meanwhile in the stern of the balloon the Tartar general finished writing upon the

tablets which he held in his hands, read what he had written and placed the tablets in a pocket of his robe. As he did so his sunken eyes gleamed with an eager and malignant light. "Ca ira, ca ira," he muttered to himself. "Tout va bien jusqu'an

Haines was not slow to communicate his good fortune to Yih-Hun. The latter congratulated him cordially. "But I must not conceal from you," he said, "that there are yet many obstacles in your way. Even if my father's consent is ultimately obtained, as I have no doubt it will be, there is another and a very important factor in the problem. It sometimes happens that the Emperor takes an interest in the marriage of the daughters of his principal nobles, and commands them to marry husbands of his own selection. This might happen in Mauna's case. Mind you, I do not say it will happen, but it might happen. If it should, there would be no alternative but to obey the

imperial mandate.
The suggestion of this contingency at once plunged Haines from the empyrion of bliss to the depths of despair, and for a long time he could make no reply. At ength he roused himself and said, firmly: "I shall not make myself miserable over a contingency which may never happen. I will not believe that what you suggest can occur. Fortune cannot be so cruel. But one thing worries me. You know your old Tartar friend, who is appropriately named

"Well, he was standing hidden by an awning when I proposed to Mauna, and have no doubt he was listening to what I said. If he understands French it is a serious matter, is it not?" "I do not think he does," was the reply. But he is a dangerous man, and I have recently suspected him of dark designs

against my father. I have reframed from

speaking to you on the subject hitherto be-

cause you were the innocent object on which he founded his machinations. "If" cried Haines in amazement. "Yes. I could not, of course, tell you of it before the arrangements for your exchange had been perfected, because I knew you could not be induced to stay with us another moment after you knew of his schemes. Now, however, the exchange has been perfected and will take place to-mor-

"To-morrow! Why did you not tell me this before? I am to be exchanged to-mor-'Yes; I did not tell you sooner because I only learned the fact myself a haif-hour ago, and you were then with Mauna. But now, as I say, that you have been exchanged, or are about to be, I do not mind telling you that Wo-Lee has represented in Pekin that father and I have held traitorous intercourse with the enemy, that you were a spy openly entertained by us while taking notes of our numbers and resources. and that negotiations for the betrayal and surrender of the army had been made through you.

"The black-hearted villain!" exclaimed Haines, passionately, as he passed up and down in extreme excitement. "I would kill him instantly like a dog if that would not appear to substantiate his calumnies. conversation, she was alike charming, orig-inal and womanly.

O. Yih, what have I brought upon you and Mauna and your noble old father? Would It is not to be supposed that a woman of I had been dashed to pieces when I fell

"Do not feel so badly, Haines," said Yih-Hun, soothingly. "I said Wo-Lee had reported these lies. I did not say that they were believed. I luckily obtained some information of his schemes some ten days ago, and representations have been made by this time at Pekin that I have no doubt will render his calumnies harmless. I have told you this in order that you might see the necessity of the greatest care in communi-cating with Mauna and myself during the continuance of the war. Perhaps it would

it. It will be hard, but rather than subject you to the slightest risk I would be

"It will not be long," said Yih-Hun, con-solingly. "I doubt if the war lasts three "You deceive yourself, Yih. You under-rate our resources and-pardon me-you overrate your own. Your novel engines of war have been effective so far, but our peo-ple will soon become accustomed to them, as the Romans did to the elephants of Phyrrus. They will imitate them, and per-

haps improve on them." Yih-Hun shook his head. "You have yet seen but a tenth part of our engines of war," he said. "For instance, do you know what that is?" pointing, as he spoke, to a huge, dark object, to the transport of which a whole balloon of the largest size was devoted.

"How should I?" said Haines, somewhat irritably. "It may be your army soup-kettle for all I know."

"Wait a moment," replied Yih-Hun, smil-ing, "and I will show you what it is." The balloons were now holding a course which in a few minutes would bring them within a half mile of a high, red sandstone butte which reared its head proudly above the chaos of ravines, precipices, hills and plateaus about it. Yih-Hun now gave a rapid command, which was repeated by his orderly through the aerophone of the air-ship. An answering hail was at once heard from the balloon bearing the mysterious object under discussion.

"Now watch the butte," said Yih-Hun, as the fleet of balloons reached a posttion where the butte was, in nantical parlance, broad off their weather bow. "Look

As Haines obeyed this injunction a slen-der thread of light shot from the side of the engine referred to, and a shrill, whistling sound, like the hissing of a whip-lash, was heard. At the same moment the summit of the butte burst into an intolerably brilliant flame. Haines waited to see the fire go out, after the charge which had evidently been thrown upon the hill should be consumed but the flames grew fiercer and fiercer until stone butte was being consumed. Weirdly flared the red and yellow flames from the burning clift, lighting up with their fitful glate many a league of broken and chaotic country. Haines watched the strange conflagration for many minutes and until the burning butte was far behind the fleet. "Something on the order of Greek fire!"

he inquired at length, in a voice which was "You might say so," was the reply, "but a great improvement on the old article, even if all we read about the latter were true. By the way, did you know that the Chinese were the inventors of Greek fire, as well as of gunpowder? They were. The invention of the fire is usually ascribed to Callinicus, of Heliopolis, about the year 688 of your era, but the secret of its manufacture was really brought to Constatinople from China, or Cathay, by the way of

"It looks," said Haines, whose eyes were still bent on the glowing mass behind them, and who apparently had paid but little attention to his friend's learned remark, "it looks very much as though this might be a fair imitation of 'the fire that burneth forever and ever,' to use our Scriptural phrase. Anything that will burn up solid sand-stone would probably revel in the combus-tion of ice or snow. Why did you not use

"Why," replied Yih-Hun, in a serious tone, "both my father and myself doubt if it can properly be used in civilized warfare—that is, against bodies of troops. It is too horrible in its effects. At a half-mile range, a whang-ho, as we call the machine, will throw a spray of fire similar to that you have just seen, over a space equal to that ordinarily occupied in action by a division of troops. That means that every enemy within the radius named would be burned

"C'est magnifique, mais ce n'est pas l guerra," quoted Haines, thoughtfully. "No," replied his companion. "It is notat least not civilized warfare. You will not be surprised to learn, however, that our friend the Tartar General was very indignant because we did not use these weapons at Ubet, and the fact that we did not constitutes one of the charges made against my father to his Imperial Majesty."

"There seems to be no limit," said Haines, thoughtfully, "to the number and ingenuity of your engines of war, but if we cannot fight you we can, at least, starve you. You will find it impossible to feed your immense numbers after your forces get a little | filled a glass with wine and placed it at the further inland."

Yih-Hunsmiled. "Tastethis," he said, as he handed his companion a small cake of the color and somewhat the consistency of chocolate. Haines tasted it. It had a nutty, pungent flaver, not at all disagreeable. "What is this?" he asked.

"It is a food made from the nut of the kola tree. It was first made and used by the French. It is nutritious, sustaining and stimulating. Two of these little cakes are a meal for a strong man. Used with the commonest kinds of vegetables or grasses, it supplies all that is necessary to support life. A soldier can carry a three months' supply, besides his arms and ammunition. We have more than a year's supply for the whole army with us. If you were to absolutely cut off all other supplies we could maintain the army for a year on this food."

"You have an answer for everything, Yih. but you cannot convince me that America is to be conquered in so short a time, or, indeed, conquered at all. When is my exchange to take place?' "At 10 o'clock to-morrew morning, at a place about twenty-five miles from here.

We shall halt, presently, near there. It is now a little past midnight. "I must see Mauna again, Yih. Will you arrange for it?" "Yes; you remain on the balloon after the halt. Every one will then leave it but the crew and Mauna and her attendants.

will see that Wo-Lee does not molest

"God bless you, Yih. May all these tangled threads be straightened for the best." The next day two small bodies of horsemen approached each other upon the banks of the Yellowstone river. They met upon a small mound or butte near the banks of the stream, and Haines, as he dismounted, was clasped about the neck by the strong arms of his friend Fuller, while Yih-Hun greeted as warmly, if not with the same effusiveness, a handsome young Chinese officer who had arrived with the American party. The officers of the two detachments were introduced to each other, and the necessary formalities were gone through with, after which some time was spent in general conversation. At length the signal for departure was given. Haines and Yih embraced warmly, but they were both too much affected to speak. A whispered message for Mauna, a last clasp of the hand, and Haines flung himself upon the horse provided for him, and rode rapidly away, not trusting himself to look back. An hour's riding brought his party to the American camp.

CHAPTER X.

A SPY WITHIN CHINESE LINES. Haines was warmly welcomed back by his friends of the Army of the West. He at once reported at headquarters, where the story of his capture and life among the Chinese was listened to with the most marked attention by General Gregg. It is needless to say, however, that one chapter of his adventures was not related. At the conclusion of his narrative he was agreeably surprised to be rewarded for the same by the presentation of his commission as a major of infantry, the casualties at the battle of Ubet having resulted in his promotion to that rank. "Owing to your superior knowledge of the Chinese and their methods of warfare,

Major Haines," said General Gregg, "you will be a very valuable man for me to have about me. I shall therefore appoint you an aid upon my staff, with the rank of colonel. You will enter upon your duties as soon as possible, say day after to-mor-

Haines thanked his commander warmly and hastened away to see the many friends from whom he had been so long absent. Some of these, he found, had met a soldier's death at Ubet, others were invalided, and still others evidenced their valor at that disastrous battle by their scars and empty sleeves. The familiar face of Fuller was missing, that gallant young officer having been seriously wounded at the battle of Ubet, and being still absent upon his stek leave at his home in western New York.
From his surviving associates Haines obtained the first news of the general status of the war which he had heard since his capture, nearly a month before. The Army of the West, he found, had been reorganized and recruited up to a strength of 300,000 men. It was better armed and equipped, better drilled, and had more confidence in when he left it. In the East he found the Chinese armies had advanced more slowly time to escape a new danger from an unexthan the Pacific army, the density of the | pected quarter, as a troop of Tartar horse

population of the sections through which they passed tending to embarrass them, and to make the concentration of troops about them easier. The Army of the Mississippi had suffered some severe repules, but in return had inflicted heavy losses upon their assailants. The Atlantic army had had an entire corps of 50,000 men cut off and destroyed, but no permanent advantage had resulted thereby to the American cause. The blockade along the coast was fairly effective, and tea, coffee and sugar were already luxuries be and the reach of the average purso. One blockading ship had been captured by strategem. and engineers and scientists were examining it with a view to building similar vessels for the United States navy. Specie payment had been suspended and gold was at a premium of 25 per cent. A new call for 2,000,000 volunteers had just been made. There was as yet no hope for a foreign alliance, and there were rumors of the arrival of Chinese reinforcements. This was the substance of what Haines learned from his friends. To a man with Haines's knowledge of the resources of the Chinese, the condition of affairs was not encouraging, as he was obliged to admit to himself.

On the third day after his return he entered upon his duties as an aid upon the staff of the commanding general. The Chinese army had not moved during that time and the two forces lay distant about ten miles from each other. On the evening of the day referred to Haines was called in haste to the tent of General Gregg. He found that officer in a condition of unusual excitement. On his arrival the General hastily wrong his hand, ordered the tent to be cleared and directed the sentinel before it to admit no one. Then wiping the perance and handed them to Haines.
"Read that," he said excitedly. "We

have just captured a messenger with it."
Haines took the papers and unfolded them. The first was a large document written in the Chinese character upon parch-ment and was decorated with a large golden seal. The other was evidently a translation of the former, in the handwriting of the official Chinese interpreter attached to headquarters. Haines began to read the translation standing, but he had not pro-ceeded far before his trembling limbs gave way beneath him and he sank into a camp chair. The translation read as follows:

"We, Kwang-Su, of the Tsin Dynasty, the Son of Heaven, the Celestial Sovereign, Emperor of China and Corea, to our Servant, Wo-Lee, Greeting-It having been made known to us by thy faithful reports that Ki-Tsin, generalissin our imperial army of the Pacific, in the United States of America, is traitorously disaffected toward our person; that he bath traitorously trafficked with, and given aid and comfort to, our enemies; that he hath entertained as a guest spy, Fan-Kwei, and hath with him concerted for the betrayal and surrender of our imperial army, now, therefore, these things having been discussed by the Chiun-Li, in due form, and by it

presented to us, "It is hereby ordained: Let Ki-Tsin die the leath. Let Yih-Hun die the death. Let our faithful servant Wo-Lee take command of our imperial army of the Pacific, and let him be obeyed as its commander. "And inasmuch as the maiden, Mauna-Qua, al-

beit a daughter of a rebel, and her lite being justly forfeit for his crimes, hath found favor in the eyes of our servant Wo-Lee, and he hath petitioned us that we give him the band of the said maiden in marriage; now, therefore, these mat-ters having been discussed by the Chiun-Li in due form, and by it presented to us, It is ordained: Let the maiden be pardoned for the crimes of Ki-Tsin, and let her marry our

"WE, THE EMPEROR. servant, Wo-Lee. "Given at our celestial palace at Pekin, etc." Haines read the fatal mandate through slowly, and then began and read it again. He noted every particular expression and weighed every word. He was very pale, and his hand trembled violently as he re-"Well," said the General, impatiently,

"what had we best do? You know these people, I suppose. They have evidently begun to fight among themselves. That is well for us. The more dissensions and throat-cuttings among them the better. suppose that it will be to our advantage to have this Ki-Tsin out of the way, as he has proved himself to be an able general. On the whole I think we had better let the dispatch go through, don't you? "General, for the love of God, do no such

thing." It was a wild, heartrending cry that forced itself from Haines's breast before he could repress it. "Why, Haines, what does this mean?" cried the General, with surprise. "You are as pale as death, and look as if you were about to faint. Here, drink this," and he young officer's lips. "Come," he said, after Haines had drained the glass; "there is

more back of this than you have told me. Out with it." Thus exhorted Haines told his love for Mauna, their prief courtship, his affection for Yih-Hun and his father, and rapidly described Wo-Lee. "It would be the worst possible policy." he went on hurriedly, "to let Wo-Lee obtain the command, leaving out of the question my own feelings for Ki-Tsin and Lis family. Wo-Lee is a cruel, bigoted fanatic. In command he would become a second scourge of God. The miseries that he would inflict upon our non-combatants would be dreadful. He is fully as able a general as Ki-Tsin, without the former's moderation and humanity. He is even more energetic than the present. commander, and I have no doubt would be

really a more formidable antagonist than "But what can we do? This is doubtless not the only dispatch. Others of the same tenor have probably been sent by different routes confirming it. The destruction of this dispatch will not save your friends." "No, it will not," said Haines, despond-ently. "General," he cried, suddenly, after a silence of some moments, "give me that dispatch, and let me have a few days' leave

"What do you mean to do?" "I'll take the order to Yih-Hun myself. It I succeed in doing so, no doubt he and his sister can induce their father to come off to our camp. If he would do so, think what we will gain. They know all the Chinese plans and resources, the secrets of their mechanical contrivances-everything. They are men of honor, but they will surely feel themselver absolved from all allegiance to an ungrateful tyrant who has sentenced them to an undeserved death, and their gratitude to me would also have some weight with them.'

"But do not these Orientals die passively, without remonstrance, when their Emperor orders it, thinking that fate has so willed it?"

"Some of them may." said Haines, "but Ki-Tsin and Yih-Hun are men of too broad minds and too high an appreciation of the value of life to throw it away at the order of a despot. Besides, they would not want Wo-Lee to have that triumph. But what say you, General?" How will you get through their lines?" "I have a Chinese uniform which Yih-Hun

gave me. I can speak their language sumciently for my purposes if it becomes necessary. As to the rest I must rely on fortune and my native wit." "Very well, Major," said the General at

length, "you may go. I consent because I can see that if the Chinese commander and his son will come to us and will sid us they will be very important allies. I doubt very much, however, whether they will do either, They will probably out with their swords as soon as they read the mandate and commit hara-kiri. But you may go. The possible result is worth the risk. When will you start?"

"Immediately. There is no time to be lost. Good-bye, General." "Good-bye, Major. I wish you success, but fear I shall never see you again." "You will not, General, unless I succeed. Farewell." And Haines, with the fatal warrant in his hand, hurried to his tent to make the necessary preparations for his perilous enterprise.

An hour later a man enveloped in a long military cloak stole through the pickets of the American army at a point where they had purposely been stationed widely apart. Reaching a point some half-mile beyond the lines he found a horse saddled and bridled, awaiting him in the charge of an orderly. Throwing off his cloak and tossing it to the orderly, he appeared in the uniform of a Chinese officer, sprang to the saddle and rode swiftly away in the direction of the Chinese camp. An hour's gallop brought the night rider near his destination, and when at last the reflection on the sky of the electric lights of the Chinese camp showed it near at hand he dismounted, unbridled his horse, tied the bridle to its saddle, and wheeling the animal in the direction from which he had come, and saying a word in its ear, he sent it off in a brisk canter. The man then hastened can-tiously forward, until he had surmounted a little rise of ground from which the enemy's camp could be plainly seen at a diswas brilliantly illuminated, and powerful search-lights, momentarily shifted to bear upon the different parts of the surrounding plain, threatened to disclose his presence